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1962/10/29

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action
EUR~~SECRET~~Control: 20003
Rec'd: OCTOBER 29, 1962
8:23 PM

FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: POLTO 518, OCTOBER 29. 0 PM (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

ACTION DEPARTMENT POLTO 51
CAPITALS POLTO UNNUMBERED.

REFS: POLTOS 513 AND 514

SUBJ: SPECIAL NAC MEETING

AFTER AGENDA ITEMS HAD BEEN HANDLED (REFTELS), BELGIAN (DE STAERCKE), DEAN OF COUNCIL, SPEAKING FOR HIS GOVT AND AS DEAN, MADE STRONG STATEMENT OF CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY FOR CLEAR-SIGHTEDNESS, COURAGE, FIRMNESS, AS WELL AS MODERATION, WITH WHICH HE HANDLED MOST DIFFICULT AND SERIOUS CUBAN SITUATION. DE STAERCKE ASKED THAT US SO INFORM PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

DE STAERCKE THEN STATED THAT NOW THAT KHRUSHCHEV HAD AGREED TO "FIRST INGREDIENT" IN CRISIS BY PROMISING TO RENDER INOPERABLE MISSILES IN CUBA, NAC SHOULD THINK OF WHAT WE SHOULD DO NEXT. HE URGED THEREFORE US AND UK PARTICULARLY, BUT ALSO OTHER NATO GOVERNMENTS, GIVE SOONEST AS DETAILED AS POSSIBLE EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY REASONS FOR KHRUSHCHEV'S CHANGE OF MIND AND HIS POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTIONS. DE STAERCKE EXPRESSED HOPE SUCH EVALUATION COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR NAC MEETING 31ST.

US PROMISED OBTAIN EVALUATION SOONEST, BUT FELT WOULD TAKE LONGER TO GET FULL, MEANINGFUL EVALUATION.

DANE, SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, ALSO EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR FIRM, COURAGEOUS AND TACTFUL WAY
PRESIDENT

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~~SECRET~~

-2- POLTO 512, OCTOBER 29, 9 PM, (SECTION ONE OF TWO), FROM:
PARIS

PRESIDENT HANDLED VERY SERIOUS CRISIS AND STATED US
AMB COPENHAGEN HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY ASKED TO PASS SUCH
OFFICIAL APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT.

FRENCH, ALTHOUGH SPEAKING PERSONALLY, STATED HE WAS SURE
THAT HIS GOVT WOULD ASSOCIATE ITSELF FULLY WITH STATEMENTS
MADE BY DE STAERCKE AND OTHERS ON FIRM, COURAGEOUS WAY PRESI-
DENT HANDLED CRISIS. HE ADDED HE HAD SHORT DISCUSSION
WITH COUVE DE MURVILLE THIS MORNING TO GET LATTER'S
PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF KHRUSHCHEV'S ACTION. COUVE
HAD SPECULATED KHRUSHCHEV, REALIZING MOST OF WESTERN
WORLD WAS SOLIDLY WITH US AND IN FACE OF THE FIRM AND
COURAGEOUS WAY PRESIDENT HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WOULD
ACT IF NECESSARY, BECAME FEARFUL THAT HE MIGHT LOSE MORE
BY GOING AHEAD THAN CHANGING COURSE. THIS DEVELOPMENT
BROUGHT US TO A VERY IMPORTANT STAGE. SITUATION MUST
BE CAREFULLY STUDIED AND FUTURE ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER
FULLEST EVALUATION OF WHAT NEXT SOVIET MOVES MAY BE.

UK ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH OTHERS IN CONGRATULATING
PRESIDENT ON SUPERB HANDLING OF SITUATION AND STATED HE
AGREED WITH DE STAERCKE THAT NOW THAT "FIRST INGREDIENT"
HAD BEEN DISPOSED OF, WE SHOULD NOT LET KHRUSHCHEV POSE
AS GREAT CHAMPION OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. WE MUST USE
THESE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS TO CONTINUE FORWARD DYNAMISM
AND TO WORK TO CONSOLIDATE POSITION OF WEST.

TURKS STATED THAT IT WAS MOST GRATIFYING TO ALL THAT PRESI-
DENT HAD BROUGHT ABOUT SUCH DEVELOPMENT BY HIS FIRMNES
AND COURAGE, BUT HE REMINDED NAC WE MUST STILL CONTINUE
TO BE MOST VIGILANT. WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO
BE PUT TO SLEEP BECAUSE, AS COUNCIL HAD HEARD OCT. 28TH,
AMB. FRANK ROBERTS IN MOSCOW HAD RECALLED TO UK GOVERNMENT
THAT WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER KHRUSHCHEV DOES EVERYTHING
FOR A PURPOSE, HAS NO RPT NO SET PROGRAM, AND ALWAYS HAS
OTHER ROUTES TO FOLLOW. TURK CONTINUED WE MUST ASSUME
KHRUSHCHEV MADE HIS MOVE YESTERDAY WITH OTHER ACTIONS
IN MIND.

~~FINLETTER~~